

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
BY-LAWS**

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1) **Established--Statutory Authority.**

- A. The Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Commission is established under the authority of Government Code Section 25208.5 and the County Board of Supervisors, in compliance with Chapter 2.38 and Chapter 2.70 of the Santa Cruz County Code.
- B. The Commission shall advise the County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services on recreational programs, facilities, and parklands within the unincorporated area and outside the boundaries of the four special recreational districts of the County of Santa Cruz.

2) **Membership.**

The Commission shall consist of five members, residents of the County, appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. Each Supervisor shall nominate one member.

3) **Term of Office.**

Each member shall serve for a term of four years, commencing on April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the member's nominating Supervisor begins a full term.

4) **Officers.**

The Commission shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Officers shall be elected during the first meeting in April of each year.

5) **Organization and Procedures.**

- A. **General Organization.** The Commission shall comply in all respects with Sections 2.38.110 through 2.38.250 and 2/38.270 of the Santa Cruz County Code unless otherwise provided herein.

- B. County Staff Support. The County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services shall provide staff support for the Commission. The Director of the department, or the Director's designee, shall serve as administrative secretary to the Commission, and shall prepare and receive copies of all minutes, reports and recommendations submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the Commission. The staff of the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services shall assist the Commission in discharging its duties.

6) **Powers and Duties.**

The Commission shall be responsible for performing the following duties:

- A. Assess the needs and resources of the County for parks, open space and cultural services, and recommend programs to satisfy those needs;
- B. Advise the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services on the formulation, implementation, review and updating of the County Master Plan for parks, recreation and open space;
- C. Advise the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services on the administration of a program of acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of parks and recreational resources, as reflected in the Master Plan for parks, recreation and open space;
- D. Advise the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services on the preservation of the historic, cultural and natural resources of the County and how best to promote and foster an awareness of this heritage;
- E. Cooperate with public, private and quasi-private agencies and organizations involved in parks, open space and cultural services in or affecting the County;
- F. Advise the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services on the preparation, justification and administration of an annual budget for parks, open space and cultural services;
- G. Evaluate all applications for County funds or services for the support of County-sponsored or County-assisted programs in recreation, arts, and other cultural services, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on such applications; and
- H. Communicate and cooperate with the arts and other commissions and boards in order to ensure coordination of cultural and social activities.

7) **Meetings.**

- A. All business shall be conducted at regular public meetings scheduled at least quarterly on a Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Simpkins Family Swim Center/Parks Department Offices, located at 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, California, or, from time to time, at an alternate location specified in the public notice. The Commission may call for special public meetings in order to timely conduct Commission business.
- B. Any subcommittee meetings comprised of less than a quorum of the members of the Commission and, which are not standing subcommittees of the Commission, shall meet at a time and place convenient for the members of the subcommittee and may be open to the public. Proceedings of any subcommittee meetings shall be presented to the Commission in written form at the Commission's regular meeting.

8) **Minutes of Meetings.**

Official minutes recording the motions entertained and actions taken at each Commission meeting shall be prepared and submitted by the Commission to the Board of Supervisors, the Clerk of the Board, and

the County Administrative Office.

9) **Quorum for Meetings.**

A quorum shall consist of three (3) Commissioners for regular and special meetings. If a quorum is not present within fifteen minutes of the scheduled meeting time for any regular or special meeting, then such meeting shall be adjourned for lack of a quorum. A notice indicating such an adjournment shall accompany the agenda for the Commission's next meeting.

10) **Notice of Meetings.**

- A. At least seventy-two (72) hours prior to each regular meeting, an agenda for the regular meeting shall be electronically sent to each Commission member, to each representative of the news media and to each person who has submitted a written request to the Commission for notification of meetings.
- B. The agenda shall be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the regular meeting at a location that is freely accessible to the public. The agenda shall contain a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting.
- C. No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of the Commission may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights or ask a question for clarification, refer the matter to staff or to other resources for factual information, or request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter.
- D. Notwithstanding the foregoing, action may be taken on an item of business not appearing on the posted agenda upon following a determination by a four-fifths vote by the Commissioners present.
- E. If less than four-fifths of the Commission is present, action may be taken on an item of business not appearing on the posted agenda if, by an unanimous vote of the Commissioners present, the Commissioners determine there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the County subsequent to the agenda being posted.
- F. At least twenty-four (24) hours prior to each special meeting, an agenda for the special meeting shall be electronically sent to each Commissioner, to each representative of the news media and to each person who has submitted a written request to the Commission for notification of meetings; and shall be posted at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the special meeting at a location that is freely accessible to members of the public. No business other than that listed on the agenda shall be considered at a special meeting.
- G. All subcommittees shall comply with the notice and agenda requirements otherwise applicable to the Commission in these By-laws, except for subcommittees composed solely of less than a quorum of the members of the Commission which are not standing subcommittees of the Commission with either a continuing subject matter jurisdiction or a meeting schedule fixed by resolution or other formal action of the Commission.

11) **Public Participation.**

Public participation in Commission meeting shall be allowed as follows:

- A. An opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Commission on any item on the agenda that is of interest to the public shall be provided before or during the Commission's consideration of the item.
- B. In addition, the agenda will provide for oral communications on items not on the agenda which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission near the beginning of each regular

meeting agenda.

- C. The Commission may establish reasonable limits on the amount of time allotted to each speaker on a particular item, and the Commission may establish reasonable limits on the total amount of time allotted for public testimony on a particular item or the total amount of time allotted for community oral communications. Unless otherwise determined by the Commission, the time limit will be 3 minutes. When further discussion is required, the Commission may vote to allot time in the agenda of the following meeting.

12) **Action of the Commission.**

Every act of decision taken or made by an affirmative vote of at least three of the Commissioners present at the meeting is the act of the Commission. All such actions of the Commission shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

13) **Vacancies.**

Vacancies on the Commission shall exist: (1) on the death, resignation or removal of any Commissioner; and (2) any Commissioner who misses three consecutive meetings, without good cause entered into the Commission's minutes; or, any Commissioners who misses half of the meetings in a calendar year, of the Commission shall be deemed as resigned from the Commission. Parks Department staff shall notify the Clerk of the Board of any vacancies on the Commission.

14) **Biennial Report.**

A. A biennial report shall be submitted by the Commission to the Board of Supervisors and to the County Administrative Office on or before January 31<sup>st</sup> and subsequently filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. The report shall highlight the activities, accomplishments and goals of the Commission and shall utilize the following report format:

1. Role(s) of the Commission;
2. Meeting dates, time and location;
3. Commission structure;
4. Commission staff (designated staff or staff assigned through department);
5. Attendance;
6. Annual goals and accomplishments (reporting year goals and attainment of those goals; summary of reporting year activities including special projects, workshops or seminars that Commissioners have attended, if applicable);
7. Future goals; and
8. Recommendations may include (public and/or private sector actions that advance the goals of the Commission).

B. In addition to the Biennial Report, the Commission may submit progress reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and to the County Administrative Office at any time.